

# WASP

## World Adaptation Science Programme

WASP

WORLD  
ADAPTATION  
SCIENCE  
PROGRAMME



Photo credit: Unsplash / Hugh Whyte

## NEWSLETTER 2024-Q2

### About the WASP

The World Adaptation Science Programme is a **United Nations Initiative and global think tank and knowledge hub** involving over 40 core specialists/members from around the globe. They belong to leading intergovernmental agencies, national, regional and global institutions, development agencies, funding organisations, and the financial sector.

WASP's core mission is to ensure that **climate adaptation knowledge gaps are filled to inform evidence-based policies, solutions and actions** for successful adaptation to new climate conditions. Our priority is addressing the knowledge needs in vulnerable developing countries and providing policy-relevant science for decision-makers.



WASP Chair, Abdalah Mokssit, providing opening remarks at the WASP Fourth Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada, in October 2023. Also pictured former WASP chair and UNEP Management Group Representative, Jian Liu, and Head of the WASP Secretariat, Maarten Kappelle. Photo: UNEP / Selma Hedges

### Quick links:

#### WASP Website

- Events
- News
- Publications

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## UNESCO joins the WASP Management Group



Photo: UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (Flickr)

The WASP is delighted to announce that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has joined the World Adaptation Science Programme as of February 2024. Dr. Anil Mishra, Chief of the Section on Hydrological Systems, Climate Change and Adaptation, represents UNESCO in the WASP Management Group.

### New GCF representative on the WASP Management Group

Dr. Kevin Horsburgh is the new Green Climate Fund (GCF) representative in the WASP Management Group. Dr. Horsburgh is the Climate Science Lead at the Green Climate Fund (GCF) where he leads a network of experts to strengthen the climate impact of GCF investments and strategic planning.

### WASP Session at the Gobeshona Global Conference

The WASP organized a session on **'Operationalising adaptation effectiveness and strengthening finance for achieving the global goal on adaptation'** (link to the session recording) at the fully-virtual 4th Gobeshona Global Conference in March.

This session shared the latest findings on **adaptation effectiveness**, the **global goal on adaptation**, and **adaptation finance**. It facilitated discussions on locally led adaptation (LLA), indicators, and relevant international processes, prioritising the experiences of local practitioners and stakeholders.

### Preparations are underway for Adaptation Futures 2025



Photo: Ōtautahi Christchurch (adaptationfutures2025.com)

Preparations are underway for the eighth Adaptation Futures conference. The conference will be held in **Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand from 13 to 16 October, 2025**. It is being hosted by the University of Canterbury Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha with regional Oceania and international partners. Find out more at: <https://adaptationfutures2025.com/>

## Adaptation Gap Report 2024: Steering Committee and Lead Author meeting



Adaptation Gap Report Meeting in Copenhagen. Photo: Maarten Kappelle / UNEP

The Adaptation Gap Report is a UNEP flagship publication, co-produced by the WASP and UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, that provides an annual science-based assessment of the global progress on adaptation planning, financing and implementation.

The in-person Steering Committee and Lead Author meeting for the Adaptation Gap Report 2024 took place in Copenhagen 18-20 June. Participants discussed the first-order drafts and the overall narrative of this year's report.

## ISSI WASP-ESA Forum on Earth Observation and Climate Adaptation



Photo: International Space Science Institute (ISSI)

The WASP and the European Space Agency (ESA) co-convened an International Space Science Institute (ISSI) Forum on **Using Earth Observation Systems to Improve Climate Adaptation Policy and Action** on 25 - 28 June at ISSI in Bern, Switzerland.

The main objectives of the forum were to discuss current methods and capabilities of Earth Observation (EO) to support adaptation planning and monitoring. The Forum will collect in a white paper the status of research and development (R&D) for using EO to support climate change adaptation. Forum deliberations aimed to develop a list of EO metrics of Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) that can help to support the ongoing discussions around the Global Goal on Adaptation. Knowledge gaps that require filling to further enhance EO adaptation R&D were also explored.



ISSI WASP-ESA Forum in Bern. Photo: Johanna Nalau

## The call for proposals to host Adaptation Futures 2026 is open

The call for proposals to host the ninth Adaptation Futures international conference, to take place during a week in the period September-November 2026, is open.

The Adaptation Futures Conference series is the premier international conference devoted entirely to climate change adaptation, bringing together researchers, policymakers, practitioners, industry representatives and communicators to present their work in adaptation, learn what others are doing, and build networks. The Conference provides a unique chance to share expertise, skills and backgrounds and exchange experiences with an active adaptation network.

The Secretariat warmly welcomes expressions of interest before **1 September 2024**. For the Terms of Reference for organising the conference, please contact the Secretariat at [secretariat@wasp-adaptation.org](mailto:secretariat@wasp-adaptation.org).